

such survey, for which results are published, was conducted during 2004-05. As per these surveys, employment in the country on usual status basis has gone up from around 397.0 million in 1999-2000 to around 459.0 million in 2004-05.

While employment in the organised sector has declined from 27.96 million in March, 2000 to 26.44 million in March 2004, employment in the unorganised sector is estimated to have increased from 369.0 million in 1999-2000 to 432.7 million in 2004-05.

Government is attempting employment generation in the normal growth process as well as through special employment generation programmes. The special programmes include Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Sampurna Grameen Rojgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana etc. Besides these, Government is also implementing National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the 200 identified districts of the country, which provides for at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household in the rural areas and whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. These measures will further enhance the employment opportunities available to the unemployed.

Need to use wasteland for setting up SEZs

***17. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmland is diverted for setting up of SEZs in the country;

(b) if so, does it not hamper the agriculture production in the country;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Ministry for making it mandatory, by amending the Land Acquisition Act, if necessary, that SEZs should be developed only on wasteland and not on agriculture land;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to formulate a regulatory mechanism to oversee the acquisition of land for SEZs in various States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The total land including farmland for establishment of 237 Special Economic Zones (SEZs), for which formal approvals have been granted by the Government, is 34,510 hectares. This extent of land would not hamper the agricultural production in the country considering the fact that total arable land in the country is over 100 million hectares.

(c) and (d) Land is a State subject. However, the State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for SEZs, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary, single crop land could be acquired for the SEZs and if perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZs.

(e) No, Sir.

Increase in ratio of unemployed youth

*18. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ratio of unemployed youth is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the schemes which are providing employment to the youths;

(d) how many jobs are provided under each scheme, State-wise specially in Bihar and Maharashtra; and

(e) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Reliable Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last such survey for which results are available pertains to the year 2004-05. As per these surveys, unemployment rate among youth (15-29 years) on usual status basis during 1999-2000 and 2004-05 more or less remained at the same level at around 5.4%.